

daughter, Peggy, from Pleasant Dale, and also Elsie Sieck, of course, the wife of past state Senator Harold Sieck. Would you folks please stand from Senator Moore's district and be recognized. Thank you, we're pleased to have you with us. Also, as guests of Senator Kristensen, Delbert and Linda Gooder of Franklin, Nebraska, under the north balcony. Would you folks please stand, Delbert and Linda. Thank you, we're glad to have you with us. And a note that our doctor of the day is from Senator Robak's district, Dr. Ron Klutman from Columbus. Dr. Klutman, please take a bow. Perhaps a postscript to the introduction of the Sieck family, this is the family, of course, of our present Page, Jeff, Jeff Sieck. Again, we're glad to have you folks with us. We apparently are back to a discussion of the amendment offered by Senator Hefner. Senator Coordsen, would you care to discuss it, followed by Senator Wesely.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, the Hefner amendment as amended yesterday now provides for a better implementation of a drug-free workplace policy in that it provides a narrowly defined addition to the section of unemployment law dealing with gross misconduct and total disqualification, but with my amendment then it is moderated to the extent that should a person become unemployed by reason of possession of a controlled substance on the job or fail the statutorily described drug test when administered by an employer, they would, if they entered an approved drug treatment program, be granted from a special fund the amount of unemployment compensation that they would have been entitled to had they been laid off in the ordinary case, of course, of a cutback in the labor force. It only applies for those that enter an approved drug treatment program and I think in the condition this amendment is in today, it will be a definite improvement to the quality of employment for those people that are working in Nebraska and want to work in a workplace where their fellow employees are also drug-free. So I would encourage the adoption of this amendment to LB 315.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, I applaud the intent of what Senator Hefner and Senator Coordsen are trying to do. They are trying to recognize individuals that have a drug problem on the job, relieved from that job, relieved is a kind way to put it, fired from the job, loss of their employment, would have the option of receiving unemployment compensation